

Third, white farmers in California began lobbying ferociously for the removal of all people of Japanese ancestry—not to protect them, and not even really for national security reasons, but to drive the very successful Japanese farming industry out of business.

And fourth, their lobbying, and the voices of the editorialists, succeeded in pushing most of the congressional delegations of the West Coast states to demand mass exclusion.

As Professor Greg Robinson says in his authoritative treatment of the subject, "By Order of the President; FDR, and the Internment of Japanese Americans" (Harvard U. Press, 2001). "the binding factor among these disparate social, economic, and military forces was racial animosity toward Japanese Americans." (p.90)

Through late January and early February, Attorney General Francis Biddle, and his staff fought with the military to prevent mass action against Japanese Americans. But it was too late. On February 11, 1942, Secretary of War Henry Stimson sent FDR a memo asking whether he'd be willing to support "mov[ing] Japanese citizens as well as aliens from restricted areas." Getting no response, Stimson phoned FDR on February 15 to ask for a meeting on the memo. FDR said he was too busy for a meeting, but in "very vigorous" tones told Stimson that the military should do whatever they thought best. FDR predicted that "there would probably be some repercussions but it has got to be dictated by military necessity."

On February 19, 1942, FDR signed Executive Order 9066, which gave the military carte blanche to do what they wished with Japanese, aliens and American citizens of Japanese ancestry along the West Coast.

There is the proof. A concern for protecting Japanese Americans had nothing whatsoever to do with the decision to force Japanese Americans behind barbed wire. Nothing.

(My sources for this account include Greg Robinson's book, *Peter Irons's Justice at War, and Personal Justice Denied*, the report of Congress's Commission on the Wartime Internment and Relocation of Civilians. This, you'll recall, was the fact-finding Commission that Congress created in the early 1980s to investigate the internment. Their report, condemning the internment, led to the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, signed into law by President Reagan, which apologized to surviving internees for the internment, and authorized the payment to each of them of a token \$20,000 redress payment. You will also recall that you spoke and voted against this bill.

I hope that you will take this opportunity to admit the mistake in your comments of Tuesday morning and apologize for them.

Thank you for considering this.

Sincerely,

ERIC L. MULLER,
Professor of Law.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AMERICA'S WILDERNESS PROTECTION ACT

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2003

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before the House today to introduce the America's Wilderness Protection Act—a bill to apply urgency and accountability to the process of evaluating potential wilderness by setting firm deadlines.

There are 666 wilderness study areas across the nation that were designated more

than 10 years ago, totaling nearly 23 million acres in 18 states. In Idaho alone there are 86 wilderness study areas totaling about 3.1 million acres.

Sixty-three of the 67 Idaho parcels managed by the Bureau of Land Management have been locked up since the early 1980s—even though 40 of them have been found unsuitable for wilderness protection. The other four have been withdrawn from multiple-use since 1976. Most of the 19 Forest Service wilderness study areas have been in place since the mid-1980s and two have held that status since 1972.

That means Congress has dragged its feet and obstructionists have gladly accepted the do-nothing status quo on these lands through the administrations of seven presidents and during the entire lifetime of many working people in Idaho.

The problem stems from the failure of the Wilderness Act of 1964 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, which created the wilderness study area process, to provide for release of areas eventually deemed unsuitable for wilderness designation.

America's Wilderness Protection Act addresses that intractable situation by establishing a timetable for completion of wilderness studies. Lands designated as study areas would be released from that status on the earlier of: (1) 10 years after the legislation is enacted; (2) the date the area is designated wilderness by Congress, or (3) the date that the secretary of Interior or Agriculture determines the area is unsuitable for wilderness designation.

In the past, some have referred to acreage allowed to languish as wilderness study areas for decades as "de facto wilderness." This term is too kind. Designated wilderness has the advantage under law of being actively managed to retain its values. Wilderness study areas, on the other hand, are virtually untouched. These lands are left to overgrowth, disease and infestation by noxious weeds and other invasive species. They become ripe for catastrophic wildfires that threaten not only the acreage being "studied" for preservation but nearby private and public land as well.

Critics contend this bill would eliminate any incentive for ranchers and other multiple-use advocates to become engaged in earnest discussions of possible wilderness designations. The argument goes that they would only have to wait out the process and protection ultimately would be denied any parcel they choose. That couldn't be further from the truth.

There are no more avid outdoors enthusiasts and conservationists than those who make their living from the land. They have a deep understanding of the cycles of life and the value of protecting and cherishing the natural world. They appreciate the importance of stewardship; it's a principle they embody every day.

While the land itself is timeless, the scenic, cultural, habitat and aesthetic values of any particular tract—if left to the ravages of time—are decidedly limited. Just as vulnerable are the economic futures of the many families whose livelihoods have been stripped away by the loss of access to so much of what now can only laughingly be called "public" land in the West.

This legislation promotes resolution and collaboration. After a generation of paralyzing indecision and refusal to accept responsibility,

the 108th Congress has an historic opportunity—if it can muster the wisdom and courage to embrace it.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CONGRESSMAN VERNON J. EHLERS

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2003

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my colleague, Congressman VERNON J. EHLERS of Grand Rapids, MI, on receiving the prestigious 2002 Philip Hauge Abelson Prize.

The Abelson Prize is awarded annually to honor a public servant for exceptional contributions to advancing science, or a scientist for a distinguished career of scientific achievement. It is granted by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the world's largest general scientific organization and publisher of the journal, "Science."

This award is much deserved. Congressman EHLERS received his Ph.D. in nuclear physics from the University of California at Berkeley in 1960. In 1966 he began teaching at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, MI and later became chairman of the college's physics department. Following a distinguished career in teaching, scientific research and community service, Congressman EHLERS joined this body in 1994, becoming the nation's first research physicist elected to Congress. He serves the 3rd Congressional District of Michigan, which directly borders the district I represent.

While serving, Congressman EHLERS has employed his scientific expertise to the benefit of our country. In 1997 the House Speaker selected him to review and restate the nation's science policy. The study, "Unlocking Our Future: Toward a New National Science Policy," was the first full policy statement on federal science and technology by the U.S. Congress. In addition, he currently serves as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Environment, Technology and Standards for the House Science Committee.

Mr. Speaker, Congressman EHLERS brings to this body both a unique scientific background and a strong commitment to use his knowledge and abilities for the public good. Please allow me to congratulate him once again on his most recent honor and thank him for his exemplary public service.

THE PRESIDENT STILL HAS NOT MADE THE CASE THAT WAR AGAINST IRAQ IS NECESSARY AT THIS TIME

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2003

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my grave concern over the Bush Administration's approach toward Iraq.

I believe that this Administration is now, and has always been, determined to go to war and that it has never taken all the steps available